THE

TWO ZODIACS OF TENTYRA,

AND THE

ZODIAC OF THEBES;

EXPLAINED BY

S. A. MACKEY,

OF NORWICH.

PUBLISHED MAY, MDCCCXXXII.

Digitized by Google


BRITISH MUSEUM

Digitized by Google

MORE PIOUS FRAUDS.

ON THE

ANTIQUITY

of the

TWO ZODIACS OF TENTYRA,

(Illustrated with Two Engravings,)

BY S. A. MACKEY,

PRINCE'S STREET, NORWICH.

1831.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

Previously to entering upon a description of this gem of science, it will be necessary to lay before my readers, a plain statement of the altercation which took place at the theatre royal, in this city, on the second evening of *Mr. Goodacre's* lectures on Astronomy; as what arose out of that event, has compelled me, (as a defender of the sacred truths of heaven) to offer the above precious remains of remote antiquity to public notice.

Digitized by Google

In speaking of the origin of the Zodiac; Mr. Goodacre observed, that *modern* Astronomers were satisfied that the antiquity of the Zodiac was not more than 2, 200, or 2,400 years at the most; and beginning at Aries, he said the ram was placed in the zodiac, in the month of April, because in that month the lambs were produced. In May, a bull was placed in the zodiac, because in that month the cows brought forth their calves; and then, proceeding to the month of June, (fearing we may suppose, to offend the ladies) he turned the two boys into two *kids*, saying, that in the ancient zodiacs, the Gemini were represented by two kids, because in the month of June the goats brought forth their *kids*. Having filled one quarter of the zodiac, he paused before he set out for the hot month of July. In the meanwhile a man in the *gallery* asked Mr. G. if he would have the goodness to state in what zodiac those *kids* were to be found. He, (Mr. G.) said in the zodiac of Dendera (Tantyra). The man replied, there are two, but there are *no kids* in either of them. Have you seen them said Mr. G.—seen them! said the man in the *gallery*, yes, sir, and many other men in Norwich; we are quite familiar here, with these *precious gems* of ancient science, and we know that there are no kids in either of them. A *long painful silence ensued*, and the man in the gallery exclaimed,—you see, sir, that the people of Norwich are not quite so ignorant as you may suppose them to be. Mr. G. said the interruption was *ungenteel*, and hoped he might be allowed to think himself

Digitized by Google

quite exonerated from any further reply, and so he went on with the next three signs, which ended with Virgo, as the month of harvest in Egypt, the month of September.

In what estimation can this man be held by those who know that the harvest month in Egypt is in the month of March, i.e. in *that part* round about Tentyra. Now had Mr. G. allowed the ram to have been originally an *autumnal* sign, he would have found the virgin, with her *spike of corn,* (symbol of harvest) with the sun in March, the harvest month in that country. But this great truth would have embarrassed Mr. G. who had before stated that *Seth, the grandson of Adam* was the first astronomer. If *his* Seth had known the ram as an *autumnal* sign, he must have lived *fifteen thousand* years ago.

After Mr. G. had finished *his* account of the zodiac, he apologized for the error he had committed, by saying he had read in the work of the ABBE PLUCHE, that two kids formerly occupied the place of Gemini. But Mr. G. did not read in Pluche's work that he should find the kids in the zodiac of Tantyra, nor yet in any other zodiac; we may therefore conclude that the last error was of Mr. G's. own invention.

Before Mr. Goodacre went on with his lecture, he informed the audience that he had been a lecturer ten years, and that he had not been interrupted more than three or four times. He mentioned a man who asked him from the *gallery* in Macclesfield, how America be-

Digitized by Google

come peopled; Mr. G. made no reply to the man, for he said he felt confident the man intended to insult the authority of the *bible*. For what purpose Mr. G. introduced the bible, he best knows; but surely he did not mean to insinuate that the man in the *gallery* at Norwich, intended to doubt the veracity of the bible; perhaps he thought that the sound of the bible would drive from the mind of his company the error he had made respecting the zodiac of Tantyra.

In his third Lecture he made a full committal of his *design*; which was to bring into disrepute, "*A certain book, whose whole merit is founded on the fallacious idea of the Polar Motion;*" which motion he denied to exist. As this point could not be discussed in the theatre, I inserted the following letter in the Norwich Mercury.

Prince's Street, 25th Oct. 1831.

To the Editor of the Norwich Mercury.

Sir,

Allow me, to offer through the medium of your paper a few remarks on the latter part of the lecture delivered last night at our theatre by Mr. Goodacre. I was forcibly struck by the powerful and triumphant manner in which he recited an extract from La Place on the oscillatory motion of the axis of the earth. La Place is an abstruse reasoner, so much so that there are but few men capable of understanding him on that very delicate topic; but from the conviction Mr. Goodacre appeared to feel of the correctness of La Place he inspired his audience with a belief that he understood that author.

Digitized by Google

Now, Sir, if Mr. Goodacre will have the goodness to show, by his machines or diagrams, by what power in celestial mechanics the axis of the earth is kept from varying more than a degree and a half from its present angle, that very deed will gain him an immortal fame.

I am Sir, &c. &c.

S. A. MACKEY.

To the Editor of the Norwich Mercury.

Sir,

Delighted with the prospect of "an immortal fame," I began to consider, on reading your learned correspondent Mr. Mackey's advice to me in last week's Mercury, what "Machines and Diagrams" would best shew the "power in celestial mechanics" by which "the axis of the earth is kept from varying more than a degree and a half from its present angle." Recollecting however, that M. De La Place had demonstrated this fact to the complete satisfaction of every one of the "few men" in the world "capable of understanding him on that very delicate topic" (Mr. Mackey of course, excepted), I feared that the kind advice of your correspondent might lead me, not to fame but to folly, and I have therefore declined acting on his suggestion. But, Sir, when exalted characters like Mr. Mackey descend from their high stations to instruct us in our every day pursuits, gratitude demands that we should at least attempt some return. Now as Mr. Mackey has so carved out his own "immortal fame" that no one particle can be added, my advice shall be directed towards his mortal comfort, *and that it may reach his erudite mind without being subjected to the low criticisms of the vulgar, it shall be given in the words of a Roman Proverb, "Ne sutor ultra crepidam."*

I am Sir,

Respectfully yours,

ROBT. GOODACRE.

St. Stephen's, Nov. 4th, 1831.

Digitized by Google

To the Editor of the Norwich Mercury.

Dear Sir,

I am unwilling to trespass too much on the limits of your Paper, but perceiving that Mr. Goodacre endeavours to shroud *his inability to shew by what power in celestial mechanics the axis of the earth is prevented from deviating more than a degree and a half from its present angle,* behind the course rug *of chicanery,*I beg to be allowed to offer a few remarks on his very strange composition inserted in your Paper of last week.*

Mr. G. seems to please himself with the idea of triumphing over a poor son of Crispin *in his "high station." But though this were intended as a poison-dart, Mr. G. will perceive that it is to* me *as harmless as the spear thrown by Achilles at Cycnus.*

On the title page of the first edition of my work printed at Norwich, I was proud of the addition of shoe-maker; *and though in my edition of Exeter, nor in my second Norwich edition, my useful trade does not appear, yet it is frequently mentioned in the body of the work. But Sir, what has this to do with the sublime Science of Astronomy? Why may not a shoe-maker in his "high station" know as much of Astronomy as a Baptist Missionary?*

Mr. Goodacre, Sir, has written from an impulse not directed by any thing in my last letter to you, but by something behind the coarse rug. *What he means by "exalted characters descending from their high stations to instruct* us *in* our *every day pursuits" I can have no clear idea. Whom does he include in the pronoun* us? *Whom have I insulted by offering them instruction in their* every day pursuits? *It is quite clear that Mr. Goodacre wants to enlist*

---

*A little low chicanery was Mr. Goodacre's *"Ne plus ultra."*

Digitized by Google

into his service a few Auxiliaries—*for I have not even attempted to instruct him. He* asserted *a thing which I wished him to* prove. *This he declines,* knowing his inability to prove it. *He says it would be folly in him to prove what La Place has so clearly demonstrated "to every one of the few capable of understanding him," Though Mr. G. was pleased to call La Place the most gigantic of Astronomers, which epithet was given in his third lecture withsuch vehemence that it seemed to proceed from the lungs of a Stentor, yet Sir, this loud vociferation is no part of a demonstration—nor, can Mr. Goodacre show that, La Place has ever demonstrated to any* man of science *that the summer tropic has not been vertical to the Island of Great Britain.*

When Galileo was sentenced to imprisonment for life for having been guilty of the damnable heresy *of asserting the rotundity of the earth, and its revolution on its axis, there can be no doubt that the* Jesuits *of that day did give* convincing proofs *of the earth's stability: but we now know that though Galileo, to save his life, did sign his Recantation, he was not convinced of his heresy. But, Sir, the chicanery of Mr. Goodacre shall not prevent me from noticing the insult offered to this city by the exhibition of his Planisphere in his sixth lecture, which, he says in his outline, shows a picture of the Heavens* rectified to any time and place. *Now Sir, a man who talks of* rectifying *a Planisphere, to different latitudes is a man totally ignorant of* spherical projection. *In common maps of the earth, the circles are projected so as to have the North Pole at the top and South Pole at the bottom, in which the Equator becomes a* right line, *passing through the centre of the circle which represents the horizon at the Equator, where the two poles are constantly visible, and the ecliptic declines 23 degrees and a half on each*

Digitized by Google

side of the Equator in sections of circles passing from East to West. Let us examine the sphere projected upon an horizon under the tropic of Cancer. There the North Pole is elevated above the North horizon and the South Pole disappears; the Equator is no longer a right line *passing over the zenith, but is here declined into the very circle before occupied by the southern part of the ecliptic. Placing the Pole in the zenith as in the latitude of* 90 *degrees,* the Equator becomes a circle coincident with the horizon; *and as in every projection the zodiac must vary according to the relative position of the Equator, the position of the Heavens must vary upon every projected horizon.*

But Mr. Goodacre's "line of the zodiac" *and his whole heavens remained unaltered under every elevation at which he fixed the pole; and there was the same* span *in the hole of the curtain which represent the horizon of the various latitudes.*

N. B. Throughout the whole of the scene of the Planisphere his Heavens *revolved the contrary way to the Heavens above.*

Very respectfully,

S. A MACKEY.

Justice however demands, that though a public lecturer be censured for his errors, he ought to be complimented for those things in which he may excel.

Mr. Goodacre in the *nautical* department of his fifth lecture was *justly* entitled to the general approbation which he received.

But as Mr. G's. evident design, in *Astronomy*, is to instil into the minds of *his* auditory, that the zodiacs of Dendera, (Tantyra) do not contain marks of a more

Digitized by Google

remote antiquity than two thousand two hundred years, or two thousand four hundred at most,—I'll defend the sacred truths of heaven as they are so strikingly painted on those two *celestial gems* of antiquity, first brought to the knowledge of Europeans by the indefatigable exertions of — Denon; who in the first vol. of his travels writes of the circular zodiac in the following words.

"In giving a representation of this Planisphere, I do not flatter myself with being able to explain it; my sole object was to shew that the Egyptians had a Planetary system, and that their knowledge of the Heavens was reduced to fixed principles: I also wished to represent these signs to show how the Greeks have first borrowed them from Egypt, and the Romans from Greece, whence they have reached our own times, and I trust by this *accurate* copy of a most interesting piece of antiquity, I shall have deserved well of the learned in Europe."

Now, without taking notice at present of the vast antiquity of the state of the heavens depicted on the annexed plates, I shall notice a few historical facts, relative to the temple in which they were preserved, 'till they were *torn* from their original sanctuary, and lodged in Paris under the dominion of the *Jesuits* of the present day.

We are assured by well authenticated documents, that, Cambyses, king of Persia, who lived 2,356 years ago, conquered Egypt and Ethiopia, and *murdered all the men of learning* that could not escape. Hence, the origin of *scientific wanderers* called *gypsies*.

Digitized by Google

As the history of science was therein written, in a character which was known to none but those venerable men who were exterminated, all its fine shades have disappeared, but the grand outline is indestructible.—Those men however, who are desirous of not being deceived, must be careful in their choice of books; for, already there are works in print containing *corrupted* zodiacs of Dendera (Tantyra) in which all the marks of their antiquity are carefully omitted.

In the time of Cambyses, Aries was a *vernal* equinoctial constellation, and the Crab coincided with the *summer* tropic; but in the zodiac A, the *winter* solstitial colure divides the Crab near its middle, and the Ram must of necessity be an *autumnal* sign, and if we allow 25,600 years in that time for one round of the equinoctial points, half that sum 12,800, which being added to the time since Cambyses, will give 16,156 years at least, since the Crab was posited, as in the long zodiac of Tantyra, which I shall demonstrate so clearly that all who know the summer noontide sun is *higher* than that of winter, and that our heads are above our feet, shall be satisfied that *cancer* in the long zodiac of Dendra, is a winter sign.

There was, in China, an emperor, whose name does not occur to my mind, but it was him in whose reign the famous wall was built, that ordered all the pre-existing monuments to be destroyed, and all records to be burnt, that he himself might be handed down to posterity, as their first emperor: and I have somewhere read,

Digitized by Google

that 400 of the literati were burnt with their books, because they would not pollute their hands with the detested pencil of falsehood. A king of Persia ordered his army to throw down the only monument in Babylon, dedicated to the science of astronomy, that so the rubbish from the top, might hide from the eyes of posterity, the science recorded on and in the bottom. Cambyses could not govern the world as a God, nor yet in the name of a God of his own creating, till he had *murdered* and scattered the men of science in Egypt, who worshiped the true God—*the Great Fabricator* of the Universe.

Alexander, having conquered the vast empire acquired by the Persians, fancied himself to be a God. He died *raving mad*; having killed Clitus, (his only *real friend*) because Clitus would not acknowledge him to be the son of *Jupiter Ammon.*

Domitian, one of the Roman Emperors, after the destruction of Jerusalem, when 100,000 Jews had been brought as captives to Rome, ordered that all *men of science be banished* from Rome.

Quere.—Did the emperors of Rome wish to assume divine authority, or did they wish to govern the world under the pretended authority of a God *about to be manufactured* in Rome. In the first century of the Christian era, while these things were transacting in Rome, Ptolemy, king of Egypt, invented an *erroneous* system of astronomy, which was not at variance with any thing said to have emanated from the God which man had made; although it was contrary to the sacred

Digitized by Google

truths of that God by whom all things were made. This system was cherished by the lovers of falsehood, several hundred years; and when Copernicus restored the ancient system of Pythagoras, it met with strong opposition among the Jesuits of that day; and poor Galileo was near losing his life for asserting the rotundity of the earth, and its motion round the sun. Persecution, however, for asserting *heavenly facts*, conveys an idea that the *persecuting God* is, at best, but a *malignant* demon; *low cunning* were better: let another false system be invented to amuse the vulgar; and accordingly, Tycho Brahe invented a false system, in opposition to that which Copernicus had restored: this was however, so very absurd that it soon shared the same fate as that of Ptolemy; and as 2,000 years had rolled by since the *full tide* of astronomical knowledge had been stopt in Egypt by Cambyses, many of the small creeks and inlets were supposed to be choaked up and totally obliterated; the earth is therefore now allowed to *spin round* like a top, while it describes a large circle round the sun. But astronomers improving their instruments, and redoubling their assiduity, have discovered three distinct motions or modifications of motions, which, combining, cause the pole of the earth to describe among the stars a *jagged involute* of a circle every 25 or 26,000 years.

Sir Isaac Newton attempted to assign a cause for these motions, which he supposed would continue till the pole of the earth and the pole of the ecliptic coincided. But

Digitized by Google

Sir Isaac being made *master of the mint*, we heard no more of the polar motion from him.

By combining however, all the consequences which must result from such a motion continued, I have shewn that the celebrated fables and mysteries of the ancients are recitals of *astronomical facts allegorised*. The 18 Shastres, the 7 Menus, the 7 Rishes, and the 6 Sacas, are personifications of the volves of the jagged involutes described by the pole of the earth, in the latitudes of 36, 28, and 24 degrees. The sun standing still on mount Gibeon, and the fable of Samson and Delilah, and many others contained in the bible, are proved to be astronomical allegories, originated in an antiquity of 400,000 years. And this is in the book, against which Mr. Goodacre spoke with so much vehemence, when he said that all *its* merits were founded on that motion of the pole which does not exist.

As I have by me a letter, signed Robt. Goodacre, that was brought to me by Mr. Goodacre's man, I will introduce it by stating that, in consequence of Mr. G's. declaring in *print*, that he would not exceed his present course of lectures in Norwich, I was induced to offer a lecture on the Thursday after his conclusion, which ended on Monday. He however, altered his plan, and gave another lecture on the same night with me, and to secure an audience, *issued* tickets *gratuitously for that night*.

On the Sunday morning, his man brought the following letter:—

Digitized by Google

Sunday Morning.

Sir,

Two thousand copies of this bill were printed, for distribution to-morrow, before your bill was given in at the Box Office last night. I regret the circumstance but cannot help it. No more Lectures however than these will be given by me in Norwich and you can shape your own course accordingly.

I enclose you two tickets for the gallery tomorrow evening for yourself and a friend. If your object be the discovery of truth, *you will then see why the Ram was put in the zodiac of Dendera, as* what you call *an autumnal sign without recurring to dogmas, which are as repugnant to common sense as they are to the best interests of society.*

Your obedt. Servt.

ROBT. GOODACRE.

We may perceive from the above epistle, that Mr. Goodacre has more regard for what he calls the *best interests of society,* than he has for the sacred truths of heaven. As if fraud is the *best* rule of society. I have always found the best interests of society arise from *moral conduct,* and what has good morality to do with fraud and hypocrisy. There is to be seen the same *uncharitable* feeling against science through all the space of time, from the emperor of China, down to Mr. Goodacre; and till Mr. G. and the Jesuits of the day, can demonstrate that it is expedient to govern man by fraud, against truth, I shall continue to defend the sacred truths of heaven; and prove that the *Ram* in the oblong zodiac

Digitized by Google

of Tantyra is an *autumnal* sign, and not a vernal sign, as stated by Mr. Goodacre, and I will prove that it contains a knowledge of astronomy, that has not been noticed by any of the modern writers.

The Oblong Zodiac of Tantyra explained.

Every body knows that the summer sun rises higher at noon than the winter sun does. When the sun has acquired its greatest altitude in Summer, we say it is Midsummer, and the sun *turns* back again; that point then is called the Summer Tropic, the upper or highest part of the zodiac,—the *top* part, and when the sun has descended to his lowly place in midwinter, from that point he turns back, and that point is termed the lower tropic, the bottom of the zodiac.

Upon our globes, at this time, the constellation of Gemini is the highest point of the zodiac, and Sagittarius at the bottom; but in the time of Cambyses, the crab was at the top, and capricorn at the bottom, and as the progressive motion of the zodiac makes an entire revolution in about 25,000 years, in that time all the constellations will have been at the top in summer, and all, at the bottom in winter; therefore when we see a celestial globe, we can ascertain its antiquity by the *position of the zodiac.*

But the zodiac of Tantyra is not placed upon a globe: how then, are we to ascertain its top from its bottom? In Dr. Jamieson's Celestial Atlas, is given what is there called, the Zodiac of Dendera; but in that there is not

Digitized by Google

the least mark of its antiquity retained: the crab is put *all* on one side, and the goat is transplanted to the contrary side to the correct plate of Denon.

Other authors have given the same corrupted and mutilated engravings, said to be the zodiacs of Tentyra. For what purpose is all this cutting and slaying? Does the malignant spirit of Cambyses still *haunt* the science of those whom he murdered? Vain attempt! since the labours of DENON have met a kindred spirit to their own. [See the annexed long engraving.]

Here we have the 12 constellations in two strait parallel bands, placed between two female figures embracing the whole; here is a *pole* with a knob at one end, indicative of the *top;* but to prevent doubt, the knob is placed touching the *mouth* of the female, and no one can suppose for a moment that the *mouth in the head,* was intended to represent the bottom of the zodiac;—here then at the *top* of this zodiac we find the goat, and at the the bottom, at the *feet* of the figure we see the crab divided near its middle. Here then, in this celebrated zodiac, we have the most satisfactory evidence, that the crab was formerly a winter constellation, and the goat, at the top, a summer constellation; and this was the first cause of the stars in that part of the zodiac being called the goat—it was at the top of the zodiac—the top of the hill; which is the delight of the goat. It was the "high station" of the sun, from which he looked down with a smile upon the earth in all his glory; as a son of Crispin from *his* high station, might *look down*

Digitized by Google

upon Mr. Goodacre. Every body knows that the sun in descending from the Summer to the Winter, passes over the equator in the Autumn; and here we find the Summer sun, quitting his high station in the Goat, to arrive at his *cellar* in the Crab, has to pass over the equator in Autumn in the constellation of the Ram. The Ram then was an autumnal sign. How could *Mr. Goodacre* have the impudence to stand before an audience in this city, and assert such palpable falsehoods in the science of astronomy as he did. But he did do it. He said the zodiac of Dendera did not show an antiquity of more than 2,200 or 2,400 years at the *most:* but here is the zodiac itself, proclaiming an antiquity of 16,000 years at least, and he said, also, that in the zodiac of Dendera, the space now filled by the twins, was occupied by two kids. But here are *no* kids; here we see a group of three men and women, whose attitudes seem to express, an agreement with a fourth woman on terms of accommodation on board her husband's boat. Well may the *Cambysesians* of the present day send into the world *spurious zodiacs* of Dendera. Do they fear that the materials of Noah and his family should be recognised in this division which Mr. Goodacre said contained two kids?

Having shown that the Ram was formerly an autumnal constellation, and that about 15 degrees of cancer was touched by the wintry tropic, I shall now proceed to notice a few things expressed on this zodiac, for which, (to use the words of Denon,) I think, I shall deserve well of the *learned* in Europe.

Digitized by Google

We see in this plate one large wing on the pole, which is in the plane of the zodiac. What can that allude to? According to Eratosthenes, who was in Babylon in the time of Alexander the Great, Berosus, the Babylonian Historian, informed him that 403,000 years before that time, the pole of the earth was within the plane of the ecliptic. Here we have the testimony of another great Nation, that the pole of the earth was once within plane of the ecliptic. Well might the detestable monster of Persia desire to destroy the sacred tower of Babel,—the only monument in that country, that commemorated the spiral motion of the pole. But let us contemplate the pole in the plate before us—the pole with *one* wing. The pole of the earth describes a spiral figure among the stars. Why did the sages of Egypt represent the pole with only *one* wing? I know of no animal in nature with one wing only. But when I was a boy, at Walton, near Languard Fort, we used to have our Winters so severe that the *shop tub* used to be frozen up: then the men sallied out with long *fowling pieces*, to shoot the wild fowl that came over our heads in vast numbers:—these were wounded in every possible way, but when one has had *one* of its wings broken, it described in its descent, by the use of the other wing alone, a figure in the air similar to that described among the stars by the pole of the earth!!! This *one-winged* pole is not in the spurious zodiacs, nor are the 37 little boats, which I shall now notice.

What can these 37 *little Boats have done*, that they

Digitized by Google

are not to be tossed about upon the billows of time?—these thirty-eight little boat-like divisions of the year, contain thirty-eight inmates, the greatest half of which holds in his hand an augurial staff, as a predictor of the weather, or perhaps other events.

In the Encyclopædia Londonensis, at the word Egypt, are given the two above zodiacs coloured; in the long one there are but thirty-one boats, and about one-third of a boat. Perhaps the number is of no importance, for I know of no astronomical division of the year into 38 or 31 parts.

In the breach of the cieling between Leo and Virgo, there is in *Denon's* zodiac, a space of two boats, but in the Encyclopædia Londinensis, the breach occupies but the space of one boat,—these differences ought not to exist, even if the things are of no importance.

In the ancient history of Egypt, the City of Thebes is represented as containing the whole population of the Country round about it during the Winter, and the inundation in the Summer; to which place the mode of travelling might be by way of the Nile; this would explain the busy group in the zodiac between the full moon in Taurus and the Beetle, or Cancer,—they were about to depart for Thebes, there to remain till the end of winter, in one instance, and the *retiring of the water* in the other; at which time the people would issue from their retreat to their various occupations on the land.—This going into, and coming out of *Thebes* annually, looks very like the story of the *Flood and the Ark.*

Digitized by Google

If the long zodiac A, exhibits an antiquity of more than 400,000 years, the circular one displays an antiquity of at least 540,000 years beyond that: for here we find the zodiac in the plane of the equator; in which state there would be universal Spring, and the year must then have been sidereal, as a consequence of the great difficulty of being sensible of the true tropical year.—When our calendar was altered, *ten days* were left out: but in this calendar, zodiac, or planisphere, we find *two months* left out—Leo following Taurus. We find also in the scales, the signs of Leo and Aquarius; which shews that in that remote time they noticed the precession of the equinoctial points. We find also, that Virgo is intermixed with Leo, and the *first* of the three *virgins has her child on her lap;* the idea therefore, of the sun re-appearing in, or being *born of the virgin,* is of a still more remote antiquity. And as the zodiac and equator coincide, the pole of the earth and the pole of the ecliptic must also coincide; and here we find the present *southern* celestial hemisphere coinciding with the *northern* hemisphere of the earth, and Boötes, to the *north* of the virgin, is here placed with his corn-cutting implement in his hand, on the *south* side of the equator.

And Sirius, Lepus, and Fomalhaut are on the *south side* of the *ecliptic,* but here we find all of them on the *north side* of the *equator.* The whole of which, are convincing proofs that the pole of the earth has been in the *plane* of the ecliptic, and in the plane of its axis.

Digitized by Google

And there are figures in the same temple which shew a repetition of each state of the pole three times. Let the Cambysesians of the present day, blame their friend Goodacre for the above explanation, who sinks himself more and more, in the estimation of *Men of Science*; as we find by the following paragraph in the Norwich Mercury, of Nov. 26th, 1831:—

In answer to Mr. Mackey, Mr. Goodacre says, "My planisphere carried the heavens from left to right, and my audience were told at the time its construction was explained and the difficulties of projecting the *sphere in plane* were pointed out, that they were to suppose themselves looking towards the South. For the truth of this statement I appeal to 281 out of the 282 persons who heard me on the 26th of October." We omit the rest of Mr. G's. letter, because we do not choose our columns should be the vehicle of coarse reflections upon any man's employment, however humble, and particularly upon a man who has, *in spite of the depression of his circumstances*, made great attainments with a degree of industry and ability which ought to shield him from vituperation, and indeed to raise him in the estimation of every man calling himself a philosopher.

Editor.

Digitized by Google

To the Editor of the Norwich Mercury.

Dear Sir,

In reply to the Extract from Mr. Goodacre's letter in your Paper of the 26th of Nov. 1831, *I say that Mr. G. might have appealed to the* whole *of the persons present on the* 26*th of Oct. last, for* I *admit his statement.*

We were to suppose ourselves looking towards the South. Had Mr. G. told his spectators that they were to consider themselves at Van Dieman's Land, *or* New Zealand, *or near Cape Horn in South America, I should have been satisfied with the motion of Mr. G's. Planisphere; for in the* Southern *Hemisphere, the Stars rising in the East, do appear to a person facing the South Pole, to rise at the* left, *and going round by the Northward, disappear in the West, at the* right *hand; But Mr. G's. Planisphere had the Northern Hemisphere for its principal field of view, and the North Pole Star for its centre of motion.— The North Point of the Horizon was at the top of the scene, and the South Point at the bottom. Now let the East and West be pointed out. Take a common globe rectified to the latitude of Norwich; place the South part of the Horizon nearest to you and lift it up so that the Northern part of the Horizon be at the top, and the South part would be at the bottom, and the Zenith would be directed to you in front.— As a planisphere is but a* picture *of a globe, Mr. G's. planisphere was the picture of a globe posited as the above. And if any person will have the goodness to look on the Horizon by his* right *hand, he will perceive the word* East *marked there, and* West *at his* left *hand. Thus then according to Mr. G's. own confession, his Stars* rose *in the* West, *and* set *in the* East.

Digitized by Google

If Mr. G. had placed the Eastern *part of his planisphere to the* left *of his company, the North part of his device had been at the* bottom *of the stage instead of the top. This however, at best is but a* subterfuge *of Mr. G. to hide his* gross imposition *of offering to public notice a planisphere which he would* rectify to time and place; *but which he did not do!*

Yours very respectfully,

S. A. MACKEY.

Prince's Street, 28th Nov. 1831.

As Mr. Goodacre seems to have laid such remarkable stress on my *trade*, if he will do me the favour to read the following letter, from an eminent surgeon at Hounslow, he will find, that there are men who think differently.

Hounslow, June 9th, 1824.

Friend Mackey,

Harrison Wilkinson and myself have had much conversation about you, and our best wishes are to serve you. We think if you were to take a shop in Holborn and publish your own Works it would well answer your purpose; particularly if you were to join with it your own and other Astronomical Instruments, Books on Astronomy and Oriental Literature; these together would bring you wealth and fame. London is your theatre; you there are in the focus of all the great Libraries, which you could consult, and gain every information; besides having the advantage of conversing with all the

Digitized by Google

*learned men, I do not mean * * * * or Divines, avoid both of these pests, as well as all titles: they smile but to betray, I know them and their manners better than you can. Avoid also politicks; and religion, except with such as you well know and can depend upon. Your system must in time destroy the present ridiculous and circumscribed chronology. Stick to that and you will tumble the crazy temple of error about the ears of those dolts who support it. Already you have shaken its pillars with a mightier force than their own Sampson did those of the Philistines.*

Avoid disputes, except in the Science you so well understand, for the wary and terrified Nobles and Priests will haunt you. And when in the openness of your own heart you have committed yourself, with the fury and malignity of their own Sathan, *they will fall on and crush you.*

Be sure in all you publish, put Journeyman *Shoemaker, Nature has given you a Patent of Nobility, you need no other. As a* Journeyman *Shoemaker you are a far greater man, than a G * * * * * h or W * * * * * * * * * n, or an A * * h B * * * * p Manners S * * * * n. If you give up your own title, the crafty Priests will in a few years swear you were educated at a University, and brought up under some reverend and worthy divine. They hate Science, and ever attempt, when it does appear, and they cannot destroy it, to make the world believe it has emanated from themselves.*

I hope you will forgive the liberty I have taken in advising you, there can be but one apology for it, and that is your welfare.

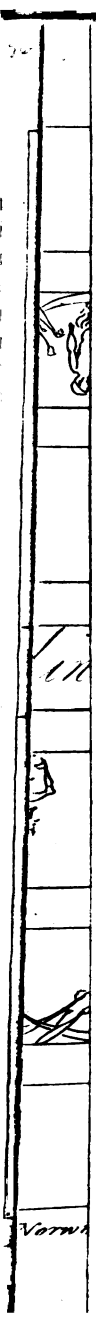
Your sincere Friend,

RICHD. BARROW.

FINIS.

PRINTED BY J. DAWSON, NORWICH.

Digitized by Google



Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google



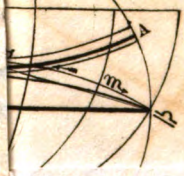
Digitized by Google

PLATE C.



1







Digitized by Google

BRITISH
5 JY62
MUSEUM

Digitized by Google

Fig. 1.

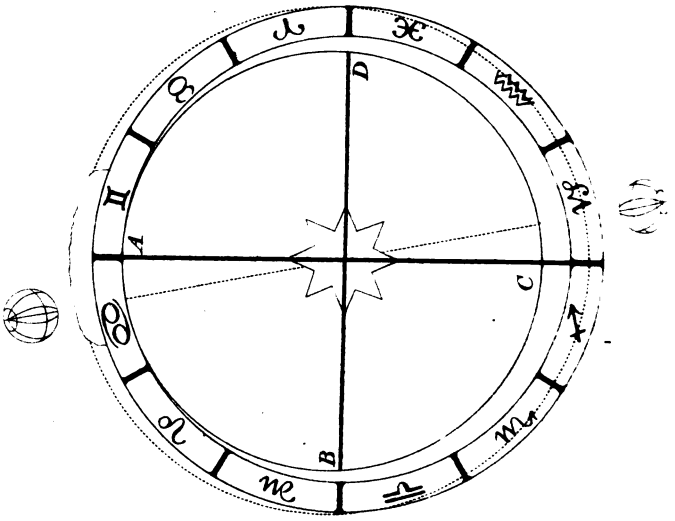
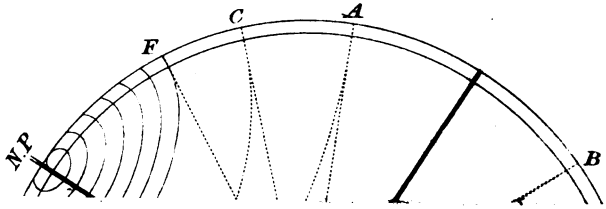


Fig. 2.



Digitized by Google

THE

ZODIAC OF THEBES;

WHICH IS PROVED TO CONTAIN THE POSITION OF

THE ECLIPTIC 40,000 YEARS BACK.

BY

S. A. MACKEY,

OF NORWICH.

SINCE publishing the two zodiacs of Tentyra, I have seen the third number of the "Edinburgh Cabinet Library," written by the Rev. Michael Russell, entitled "Ancient and Modern Egypt," and printed in the year 1831. Though this Rev. Gentleman has given me no clue to his residence, yet, as he has sent into the world a work on a very interesting subject, in which I find the science of astronomy as recorded in the temples of Egypt, treated as a very *modern* science, I shall offer a few remarks on the manner in which the author endeavours to bring into discredit the antiquity of the zodiacs of Tentyra.

He states, that the visit of Denon in the temple, was too short to allow him to be very correct in his delineations of the numerous figures, and that he has not given all the stars; that many of the figures are painted of the wrong colour; and that the two female figures (which surround the long zodiac) have nothing of the Egyptian features in them—they are mere childish faces, &c. Now I have shown that all this quibbling has not altered the antiquity of the whole,

Digitized by Google

for though the faces of the two female figures were the faces of *infants*, they are placed on their heads, and their heads are upon their shoulders, which are united by a long close dress to their well-formed feet; pointing out, as clearly as the most exact *likenesses* can point out the *top* of the zodiac from the *bottom*, or the *summer* from the *winter;* and of course *spring* from *autumn*. In which last we find the Ram—i. e. the Ram was an autumnal sign. And as the Goat is at the top, the Goat was a summer sign. And the Crab, or Scarabeüs, at the feet, was then a winter sign.

According to Manilius, the Crab was painted on the globes of the ancients of a black colour, and without eyes (the sockets being empty). How expressive of winter!!! But Jesuitical writers take no notice of these characteristic beauties.

Were his Reverence asked, why he asserted the Lion to be at the summer solstice on that zodiac, I know not how he could reply without blushing, for a more palpable incongruity cannot be.

As the above precious remains of remote antiquity are under the controul of the Jesuits in Paris, I shall not be surprised to hear of their transplacing the heads and feet of the two female figures, and thereby gain from antiquity nearly 13,000 years. This I hope will act as a stimulus to those who possess the invaluable Denonian treasures, to prize them as jewels never to be let perish.

Carpenter, in his "Political Magazine," mentions a lecturer, whose name is Clarkson, who has been

Digitized by Google

lecturing against the antiquity of the Egyptian science, and who says that their chronology of 36,000 years is a forgery. But these assertions are no where supported by arguments.

Some few years ago, I think just before Denon's journey, some French philosophers discovered a zodiac over the gateway of a temple in Egypt, in which the angle of the equator was very different to what it is in our time. And though the French nation at that time was not under one of the *holy alliance*, yet, the remarks of the philosophers upon it were published in the *Latin language* even in France. Their apology for so doing was, *that the world might not be distracted with* NEW THEORIES. The angle of the equator upon the ecliptic, in our time, is not $23\frac{1}{2}$. Now, as the angle was *very* different, it could not be less than two or three degrees more than it is in our time; for if it had been only one degree more, it had not been so very alarming. But one degree would carry us back 6,000 years into time; and three degrees would point to a time of 18,000 years backwards. But even 18,000 years is not so very distracting.

Long before Denon's time, travellers to Egypt brought from a temple at Thebes the annexed zodiac, which has been published by several authors, but which has not been explained by any man; I shall therefore be the first European to perform that task. I mean relative to its antiquity; which I shall show is 40,000 years; i. e. it gives a state or position of the zodiac as it was posited at that time, relative to the latitude of Thebes.

Digitized by Google

In this zodiac we perceive four human figures which are called "the heavenly host." These may have a meaning relative to the agriculture of their country; but the use I shall derive from them is what cannot be denied—they denote the *top* from the *bottom*—the summer from the winter. And here, as in the plate A, the Ram is an *autumnal sign*, which carries us back into time 15,000 years. This is not all, for we perceive that the sun has passed the zenith of Thebes one whole sign before it is Midsummer.

All who are acquainted with the history of Egypt know that the Nile water began to rise when the sun had acquired his greatest northern declination, or his highest elevation in summer, which was represented by placing a radiant head vomiting a torrent of water in the Goat (see page 16). This fact ascertained we know that when the sun became vertical at Thebes it wanted one month to Midsummer; i. e. it came to their zenith in May, when the sun was in Sagittarius. Thebes then must have been between the tropics. But the summer tropic, or the sun at Midsummer, does not rise so high above the equator as to become vertical at Thebes in our time. Here then is a proof that the angle between the equator and the ecliptic was different when this celestial state was registered.

I shall proceed now to show what the angle was in the zodiac before us. Let the line N S, fig 2, pl. C, represent the meridian of Thebes; and the right line, Aries and Libra, the equator. Then the line A A would represent the parallel of latitude of 25 degrees 20 min. equal to the latitude of Thebes. The curved

Digitized by Google

line Aries, 1, Libra, represents the northern half of the ecliptic of the present time; the angle of which is 23 degrees 27 min. and about $\frac{3}{4}$; and as Thebes is situated in latitude 25 degrees 20 min. the sun in our time does not approach the zenith of Thebes by more than 100 miles; consequently, the zodiac before us does not agree with the present angle of the ecliptic and equator.

Now let us extend the summer tropic, or northern boundary of the ecliptic to the line A A. In this state, the sun at Midsummer would rise exactly to the zenith of Thebes, which is, in this figure, at the point of intersection of the lines N S, and A A, which would have been expressed in the zodiac of Thebes by placing the sun over the principal figure in the centre. But as this is not the position in the picture before us, we must try again. But it will be necessary to make a few remarks upon this last position before we make a further extension of the tropic.

The tropic is now nearly two degrees to the south of Thebes. And as the tropic is known to recede but one degree in 6000 years, it is now 12,000 years since the tropical sun was vertical at Thebes. But in 12,000 years the precession of the equinoctial points carries the signs half round; and accordingly the Nile actually begins to rise when the sun is in the *sign* of Cancer.

By extending the northernmost point of the ecliptic to fig. 2, beyond Thebes, the three signs in the spring quarter would be as in the figure 2, *i. e.* from Libra at the right end of the equator, to

Digitized by Google

Scorpio, Sagittarius, and Capricorn on the meridian. Here the whole sign of Capricorn is to the north of Thebes, as is represented in this zodiac of Thebes! Here the angle of the ecliptic is considerably greater than it is in our time; and if a ruler be laid on the equator where it intersects the ecliptic at Libra, and let it be extended quite across the whole figure over the point of intersection on the meridian at 2, it will be found to cut the opposite arch a little above the latitude of Thebes at A; and as Thebes is 25 degrees and about 20 minutes, this point of intersection will be found to be 30 *degrees* from the equator.

Thus we have found that at the time of the annexed zodiac the angle of the ecliptic and equator was 30 degrees; which is 6½ degrees more than it is in our time. And as the angle is well known to diminish *about* one degree in 6000 years, the state of the heavens in this zodiac must give a retrospective view of 38,000 years. Herein we trace a round and a half of the equinoctial points in the ecliptic, and something more than another sign; for the Goat having been originally in the summer solstice, and we now know that the solsticial point is in Gemini, we find a retrogradation of seven signs, in addition to one whole round, making in all 19 signs: and if we allow 2000 years to each sign, (which is rather under the true time) the whole would amount to 39,900 years. But without writing three or four hundred analytical pages to *split a hair's breadth* into 10,000 parts, it will be quite near enough for

Digitized by Google

the present purpose, to say that this zodiac of Thebes shews an antiquity of 40,000 years ! ! !

There are various ways of projecting the position of the heavens at Thebes at the time represented in this zodiac; which is noon at Midsummer, with the sun in Capricorn, and the angle of the ecliptic and equator about 30 degrees.

In fig. 2, the meridian is a right line passing through N S, and over Thebes in the middle of the line A A. The present tropic is through 1, and the place of the tropic at the time of the zodiac is through 2. The present tropic is between the zenith of Thebes and the equator, and the latter to the north; including Thebes and even Memphis, (according to a description of Egypt in the second book of Herodotus).

In fig. 3, the meridian is the prime circle passing through H, Æ, Q, Z, N, to H P, on the northern horizon. The line H H, is the horizon of Thebes, and Z Z, the circle described by its zenith ; the circle *c a*, is the present tropic, and *c b*, the ancient tropic. N S, the axis, and Q Q, the equator.

Here, as before, we have the whole of Capricorn to the north of the zenith of Thebes when on the meridian : and when the sun is there, it must be noon at Midsummer. Here in fig. 3, we see the sun in the Goat, posited precisely as in the zodiac, and here we have ocular proof of the quantity of the angles. The arc *c*, Q, is 23 degrees and something more than 27 minutes, the quantity of the present angle. Q Z, the distance of Thebes from the equator, and Q C, the ancient angle of the eclip-

Digitized by Google

tic; which, if measured, would be found to be about 30 degrees.

In the ancient angle, at noon, the sun for the space of five or six weeks in summer would cast the shadows of objects to the southward; but in the present position of the ecliptic, the shadows of objects are always turned northward; and a person facing the east at noon, in the first position, would see his shadow to the right; but in the present position at noon, it would be projected to the left. These are the obvious results that must have obtruded themselves to every eye. Can it be supposed for a moment, that the sophistry of any Jesuitical pander of prejudice can prevail upon any rational mind to believe, that, the venerable men who crowned the earth with storied monuments of celestial science, were so stupid as not to know their right hand from the left.

THE END.

5 JY 62

PRINTED BY WILKIN AND FLETCHER, NORWICH.

Digitized by Google